



Preventing Medicare Fraud

ND SMP Scam of the Month – May 2024

Protect Yourself from Scams

Scams are tricks that some people use to take advantage of others and steal their money or personal information. But don't worry! You can protect yourself from scams. Here's how:

1. Don't engage with a scam offer. If someone tries to trick you into giving them money or personal information, don't respond to their messages or click on any links they send.
2. Learn about scams and scammer's tricks. The more you know about scams, the better you can avoid them.
3. Talk to someone about the scam. If you think you've come across a scam, don't keep it to yourself.

Healthcare fraud is one type of scam that targets people who have Medicare, a program that helps older adults pay for medical care. Some ways fraudsters try to trick Medicare users:

- **Phone calls.** Scammers might call you and pretend to be from Medicare, offering you free services or medical equipment if you give them your personal information. Remember, Medicare will never call you asking for personal information, so be suspicious of any unexpected calls.
- **Internet ads.** Sometimes scammers will create fake websites or online ads offering free services or products in exchange for personal information. Be careful about clicking on ads or entering your information online, especially if the offer seems too good to be true.
- **Text messages and emails.** Fraudsters also use text messages and emails to try to trick people into giving them money or personal information. Be cautious about opening messages from unknown senders and never click on any links or attachments in these messages.

Remember, the best defense against scams is YOU! Stay informed, be cautious, and always talk to someone you trust if you're unsure about a situation. By following these tips, you can help keep yourself and your personal information safe from scammers.

One thing you can do to stop fraud is to spread the word about scams. Sharing posts, talking to friends and family, and sharing information with your community about scams can help prevent people from falling victim to them.

Reporting Medicare fraud: If you think you have spotted fraud, report it right away. ND SMP will help seniors prevent, detect and report Medicare fraud. If you see anything suspicious, contact the ND SMP at ndsmp@minotstateu.edu or call 1-833-818-0029. For non-Medicare fraud issues, contact the ND Attorney General's Office at 1-800-472-2600.

The information provided is intended to be a general summary only. Source of information: *Don't engage: learn about scams*. (Mar 24). SMP National Resource Center Library. Retrieved from: <https://smpresource.org/>

North Dakota Senior Medicare Patrol Phone: 833-818-0029 or (701) 858-3580

For more information or to locate your SMP, visit <https://ndcpd.org/smp/>

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